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Final Project Proposal

“But which emoji do I use?”

Emoticon, sticker, and emoji usage and its impact on the sociolinguistics of digital communication



Oxford Dictionary’s Word of the Year for 2015 was not a word, but an emoji: 😂
Officially called ‘Face with Tears of Joy’ emoji.

What are the implications of these little symbols? Where did they come from and why do we use them? Even when using pure text, the tone of a message can change remarkably with just one punctuation mark. The message being conveyed becomes even more complex when visual attributes like emojis are involved. I am interested in exploring sociolinguistic changes over time with the advent of new communication methods (IM, Myspace, Texting, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) and their popularity.

The data will be collected largely from the 2015 Emogi Report and the Swiftkey Emoji Report. As of now the data collected focuses on emojis, but I would like to find more about Facebook Messenger stickers and sociolinguistic data about the influence of technology in general.

Data sources:

- Realtime Twitter tracker: <http://emojitracker.com/>
- 2015 Emogi Report
- Swiftkey Emoji Report: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/262594751/SwiftKey-Emoji-Report>

Relevant resources/bibliography (texts, artist/designer projects, etc.)

- The impact of computer technology on language choice and CMC practice: <https://www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/2848>
- “Generation Txt? The sociolinguistics of young people’s text-messaging”: <http://extra.shu.ac.uk/daol/articles/v1/n1/a3/thurlow2002003-01.html>
- “Language Beyond the Text: txt msgs 4 a new gnr8n” : <http://www.ibiblio.org/nmediac/summer2005/text.html>
- “Industry Research: The New Universal Language” <http://insights.fb.com/2015/01/07/new-universal-language/>